

# The Story of Two Foster Children



**Lola**

- Aspires to be a chef.
- Removed from home at 12 due to severe abuse and neglect.
- Now age 15 and **placed with her grandmother.**



**Naomi**

- Aspires to be a chef.
- Removed from home at 12 due to severe abuse and neglect.
- Now age 15 and **placed with a family friend who is not a relative.**

# Benefits to Care for Lola and Naomi

If Lola and Naomi are **federally eligible**, they receive the same level of support

<b>Naomi:</b> placed with a Non-Relative Foster Parent	\$820 (federal foster care)
<b>Lola:</b> placed with Grandma	<b>\$820 (federal foster care)</b>

**\*\*The foster family home rates are based on a report from the Center for Public Policy Research at UC Davis that calculated the Minimum Adequate Care Rates for children in foster care**

# Benefits to Care for Lola and Naomi

If Lola and Naomi are **not federally eligible**, their caregivers receive different benefits based on whether they are related to the child

<b>Naomi:</b> placed with a Non-Relative Foster Parent	<b>\$820 (state-only AFDC-FC)</b>
<b>Lola:</b> placed with Grandma	<b>\$351 (CalWORKs)</b>

# Inequities Exacerbated for Relatives Caring for Siblings

If Lola and Naomi are siblings and are **not federally eligible**, the inequities are even greater

Naomi and Lola: placed with a Non-Relative Foster Parent	\$1,640 (state-only AFDC-FC)
Naomi and Lola: placed with Grandma	<b>\$577 (CalWORKs)</b>

# Relatives Struggle to Support Youth with Special Needs

When relative foster parents care for youth with special needs who are **not** federally eligible, the relatives do **not** receive:

- Specialized Care Increments to provide for the special needs of the youth
- Dual Agency Rates for youth with developmental disabilities
- Infant Supplement for youth who are parenting

	Naomi (placed with non-relative)	Lola (placed with grandma)
If the youth has <b>severe emotional disturbance</b> and qualifies for Specialized Care Increment in LA County	\$1,220	\$351
Youth with <b>autism</b> who is a regional center consumer	\$2,162 - \$3,162	\$351
Youth who is <b>parenting</b>	\$1,210	\$577

# Group Home vs. Foster Home Annual Costs

- Group Home Annual Costs
  - \$88,728/year for 1 youth at RCL 10
  - \$95,508/year for 1 youth at RCL 11
  - \$102,348/year for 1 youth at RCL 12 (**52% of youth in group homes placed in this level**)
  - \$116,028/year for 1 youth at RCL 14
- **BY CONTRAST** – it costs \$9,840/year for a 15-year old to be supported in a non-relative home or a federally-eligible relative's home
  - **Relative foster parents caring for the same 15-year old who is non-federally eligible child receive a maximum of \$4,212/year**

# In Sum...

*“Kinship caregivers are often required to provide the same nurturance and support for children in their care that non-kin foster parents provide, with fewer resources, greater stressors, and limited preparation. This situation suggests that kinship care policies and practices must be mindful of and attentive to the many challenges kin caregivers face.”*

-- Rob Geen, “The Evolution of Kinship Care Policy and Practice”